

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SY-05 IO-10 OMB-01 /070 W

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O 101205Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9695

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 4316

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: MARCH 9 AND MARCH 10, THE 68TH AND 69TH DAYS OF THE
OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 4259

1. SUMMARY. THE KC 107MM ROCKET ATTACKS AGAINST POCHENTONG
AIRFIELD CONTINUE TO BE HEAVY, BUT THE NUMBER OF THE MORE
ACCURATE AND DANGEROUS 105MM HOWITZER SHELLS HAS BEEN RELATIVELY
SMALL.

THE OPERATION TO PUSH THE ENEMY UNITS FIRING THE ROCKETS OUT OF
RANGE IS STILL MOVING VERY SLOWLY. THE BANAM-NEAK LUONG AREA ON
THE MEKONG CONTINUES TO RECEIVE HEAVY ENEMY PRESSURE, BUT FANK
HAD TWO SUCCESSFUL CLEARING OPERATIONS. GOVERNMENT FORCES IN THE
SECTOR NORTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL ARE ATTEMPTING, WITH SOME
SUCCESS, TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION. FRIENDLY UNITS TOOK BACK
SOME POSITIONS PREVIOUSLY LOST AROUND A PROVINCIAL CAPITAL AND
KILLED A SIZEABLE NUMBER OF KC SOLDIERS IN THE PROCESS.

END SUMMARY.

2. THE WEEKEND COUNT FOR 107MM ROCKETS DIRECTED AT
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POCHENTONG AND PHNOM PENH WAS HIGH, BUT THE NUMBER OF THE

MORE ACCURATE AND DANGEROUS 105MM HOWITZER SHELLS FORTUNATELY WAS QUITE SMALL. IN ALL, FROM LATE MARCH 8 THROUGH MID-AFTERNOON MARCH 10, THE KC FIRED ABOUT EIGHTY-TWO 107MM ROCKETS AT THE CAPITAL AND ITS AIRFIELD, REPORTEDLY KILLING NINE PERSONS AND WOUNDING 21. ONLY SIX 105MM SHELLS WERE REPORTED LANDING DURING THE PERIOD. MOST OF THE SHELLS LANDED ON OR NEAR POCHENTONG, WITH THE REST HITTING WITHIN THE CITY OR AIMED AT THE KHMER NAVAL BASE. DESPITE THE HEAVY FIRE, DAMAGE TO THE AIRPORT HAS BEEN SLIGHT, AND THE AIRLIFT IS PROCEEDING FOR THE MOST PART ON SCHEDULE. THE FANK OPERATION AIMED AT TUOL LEAP NORTH OF ROUTE 4 DESIGNED TO STOP THE KC ATTACKS AGAINST POCHENTONG HAS MADE LITTLE PROGRESS AGAINST WHAT IS REPORTED TO BE STIFF ENEMY RESISTANCE AND DIFFICULT TERRAIN.

3. COMMUNIST UNITS AROUND BANAM-NEAK LUONG ARE MAINTAINING CONSISTENT AND HEAVY PRESSURE AGAINST THIS KEY MEKONG LOCATION. HOWEVER, FANK CONDUCTED TWO CLEARING OPERATIONS OVER THE WEEKEND WITH GOOD RESULTS; ONE WAS ALONG RECENTLY REOPENED ROUTE 15 BETWEEN NEAK LUONG AND BANAM, IN WHICH 18 KC WERE KILLED WITH 12 FRIENDLY WOUNDED, AND THE SECOND OCCURRED SOUTH OF NEAK LUONG, WITH FANK SUFFERING SEVEN KILLED BUT KILLING 26 KC AND SEIZING ASSORTED WEAPONS AND DOCUMENTS.

4. NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, IN THE 7TH DIVISION AREA OF OPERATIONS, WE UNDERSTAND THAT ROUTE 51 WHICH RUNS WEST FROM ROUTE 5 THROUGH THE DIVISION AREA OF OPERATIONS IS STILL CUT, BUT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARD OPENING IT. SOUTHEAST OF THE ROAD, FANK UNITS ARE CONTINUING TO CLEAN OUT ENEMY FORCES WHICH HAD INFILTRATED SOUTH FOLLOWING THE CUTTING OF ROUTE 51 AND THE SITUATION HAS IMPROVED.

5. FANK DEFENDERS AT THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF PREY VENG IN SOUTHEASTERN CAMBODIA HAVE RECAPTURED THE FOUR POSITIONS LOST SEVERAL DAYS AGO (REFTEL). IN SO DOING, THEY REPORTEDLY KILLED 42 OF THE ENEMY AND SEIZED AN IMPRESSIVE QUANTITY OF WEAPONS. AT KAMPOT, ANOTHER PRO-

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VINCIAL CAPITAL LOCATED ON THE SOUTHWESTERN COAST OF CAMBODIA, KC TROOPS KEPT UP THEIR HEAVY PRESSURE AGAINST THE PERIMETER OF THE CITY. A KC GROUND PROBE RESULTED IN 3 FRIENDLY KILLED AND 20 WOUNDED, WHILE AN ATTACK BY FIRE WOUNDED 14. THE PERIMETER IS HOLDING.

6. ACCORDING TO A LATE REPORT, FANK FORCES ON THE MEKONG WEST BANK,NORTH OF THE CITY, KILLED 35 ENEMY

SOLDIERS CLOSE TO AN AREA FROM WHICH ROCKETS HAVE BEEN
FIRED RECENTLY.
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